



A Broadband Awareness Initiative from the [Iowa Communications Network](#)



FCC awards millions to Iowa Broadband Providers

Strong broadband will better support communities like Avoca, Crescent or Underwood.

Source: KMTV - 3 News Now

BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY

Cybersecurity

[How using tactical literacy makes it harder for cybercriminals to fool end users](#)

End users just want to do their job, not become cybersecurity experts. When providing users with cybersecurity help, keep these tips in mind.

Source: TechRepublic

[Top 200 most common passwords of the year 2020](#)

It doesn't take much effort to choose better passwords that make an huge difference in protecting your data. 2020's survey of the most popular passwords shows that way too many people are using easily hacked variations on "12345."

Source: NordPass

[4 Holiday Cybersecurity Projects to Fill Some Quiet Time](#)

If you find yourself with a couple free hours when it's dark and rainy or snowy outside, do these items to bring yourself peace of mind through better security & privacy practices.

Source: MediaPRO Inc

[The Top 21 Security Predictions for 2021](#)

What will the New Year bring in cyberspace? Here's your annual roundup of security industry forecasts, trends, themes and cybersecurity predictions.

Source: Government Technology

[The biggest hacks, data breaches of 2020](#)

Cyberattackers certainly haven't given anyone a break this year. Data breaches, network infiltrations, bulk data theft and sale, identity theft, and ransomware outbreaks have all occurred in 2020.

Source: ZD Net

Education

[This DIY contact tracing app helps people exposed to COVID-19 remember who they met](#)

Iowa State psychology professor Christian Meissner helped develop a tool for people who have been exposed to COVID-19 to effectively trace their recent contacts.

Source: The Conversation

[NewBoCo receives \\$50,000 grant to expand programming for K-5 students](#)

The grant funding will allow NewBoCo to hire a STEM Education Fellow to develop & test healthcare-focused CoderDojo stations & fund the equipment and materials needed.

Source: Clay and Milk

[How to Use an iPad or Document Camera in Zoom](#)

In a physical classroom, a document camera is connected to a projector, but in the virtual classroom you can connect it to your Zoom call. If you don't have a document camera, a USB webcam works just as well. Here's how it works.

Source: Grantwood AEA

[Florida High School Students' Life-Saving App Wins Award](#)

The students built the Medical Dosage Calculator App after one of the students' friends nearly died from a miscalculated dosage.

Source: Center for Digital Education

[The FCC's Program to Discount Educational Internet Connections Needs an Upgrade](#)

"One of the first priorities of 2021 should be to enable schools and libraries to use E-Rate to help students and patrons get online from home."

Source: Slate

Digital divide

[Ohio Library System to Connect 800 Homes to Free Internet](#)

The new program will connect hundreds of households to free Internet through Feb. 27, funded through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and CARES Act funds.

Source: Government Technology

Government

[How to Secure Federal Broadband Grants](#)

The goal is to distribute all of the money as fast as possible to local organizations that can use it to improve services for telehealth, at-home work and school.

Source: Government Technology

[State CIOs Prioritize Cybersecurity, Digital Government, Broadband for 2021](#)

Broadband is the highest its ever been on the Top 10 coming in at number four.

Source: NASCIO

Healthcare

[The 4 biggest healthcare IT headaches](#)

Experts in healthcare IT and compliance discuss the top challenges for hospitals and healthcare facilities and what CIOs can do to address them.

Source: CIO

[Cloud Computing in Healthcare](#)

Hospitals' big move & the bandwidth required. Cloud platforms have come so far and benefited from such an investment in recent years that many hospitals are taking a fresh look at their options.

Source: Unite Private Networks

Technology

[Corn pollinating drone technology earns Iowa City agtech firm \\$7.5 million investment](#)

The drones' advantage is extreme precision when it comes to applying farm chemicals exactly where they're needed.

Source: Silicon Prairie

The Iowa Communications Network is a state-of-the-art fiber optic network providing high-speed Internet, data, voice, security, and consulting [services](#) to Iowa's healthcare, education, government, and public safety sectors.